

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2167

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9239

FOR S/NM - AMBASSADOR VANCE, ARA - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN COCA CONTROL INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 239313

1. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE
PERUVIAN PROPOSAL TO REDUCE/ELIMINATE ILLEGAL COCA PRODUCTION.
WE WERE ALL ENCOURAGED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL DIAZ POMAR'S INITIATIVE,
PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GOP HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AT BEST INDIFFERENT
TOWARD THE PROBLEM.

2. THE QUESTIONS WERE (AND REMAIN) WHETHER THE GOP REALLY HAS
TAKEN A FIRM DECISION TO CONFRONT THE COCA PROBLEM OR, FAILING
THAT, WHETHER DIAZ POMAR HAS THE NECESSARY BACKING TO OBTAIN SUCH
A DECISION AND IMPLEMENT IT. I AND MISSION OFFICERS HAVE BEEN
ATTEMPTING TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, I HAVE
EXPLORED THE MATTER WITH DIAZ POMAR, WHO CERTAINLY GIVES THE
IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS THE NECESSARY BACKING. ON THE OTHER HAND,
PRIME MINISTER ARBULU EXHIBITED NO MORE THAN POLITE INTEREST
IN THE PROPOSAL WHEN I SPOKE WITH HIM, AND WE CONTINUE TO HAVE
DOUBTS ABOUT DIAZ POMAR'S MOTIVATIONS AND CLOUT. SECOND, WE
HAVE URGED UPON DIAZ POMAR A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH THAT WOULD
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TEST THE DEPTH OF ANY GOP COMMITMENT AND ALSO MOVE MATTERS

TOWARD AND OVERALL GOP PLAN THAT WE COULD SUPPORT FINANCIALLY AND TECHNICALLY.

3. THE STEPS ARE: TO SEEK GOP ACCEPTANCE OF A STUDY OF COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION AND A U.S. \$20,000 CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SUCH A STUDY; TO OBTAIN A GOP DECREE ESTABLISHING A SMALL, HIGH-LEVEL GROUP TO OVERSEE THE DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A BROAD COCA REDUCTION PLAN; AND POSSIBLY A PILOT COCA ERADICATION PROJECT IN AN AREA SUCH AS TINGO MARIA. OUR LAST READING FROM DIAZ POMAR IS THAT THE CROP SUBSTITUTION STUDY WILL BE ONE OF A NUMBER OF MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED BY A SUB-COMMISSION, CHAired BY COMMERCE MINISTER ARIAZ GRAZIANI, OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION WHICH IS REVIEWING THE BROAD QUESTION OF PERUVIAN NARCOTICS LEGISLATION. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL, HIGH-LEVEL COORDINATING GROUP WILL AWAIT COMPLETION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S WORK, PERHAPS WITHIN 90 DAYS. DIAZ POMAR AND SOME ASSOCIATES ARE EAGER TO VISIT TINGO MARIA, BUT THERE IS AS YET NO DECISION TO UNDERTAKE A PILOT COCA ERADICATION PROJECT THERE.

4. I BELIEVE WE CAN STILL BE ENCOURAGED BY WHAT IS AT LEAST SOME PERUVIAN INTEREST IN CONTROLLING AND REDUCING COCA PRODUCTION. WE MUST SEEK TO NURTURE THIS INTEREST AND CONVERT IT INTO ACTION. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC POINTS CONTAINED IN THE REFTEL, WE DO NOT PERCEIVE THAT THE GOP REPEAT GOP HAS AS YET TAKEN THE NECESSARY HIGH-LEVEL DECISION TO ENFORCE COCA CONTROLS. A VISIT OR VISITS BY U.S. EXPERTS WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO PUT TOGETHER THE MOST USEFUL COCA ERADICATION PLAN, BUT ONLY AFTER THE GOP DEVELOPS A DRAFT PLAN FOR DISCUSSION. AS TO THE ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE PART OF AN OVERALL PLAN. IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE TO MOVE AHEAD IN THIS ONE AREA ALONE.

5. IF WE SUCCEED IN STIMULATING PERUVIAN RESOLVE THROUGH OUR PERSUASION AND OFFER OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR A COCA REDUCTION PLAN, THERE MAY SOON BE A NEED AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE U.S. TO PROVIDE FUNDS, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. I CANNOT, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SPEND ANY LARGE ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY HERE AT THIS JUNCTURE. DEAN

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